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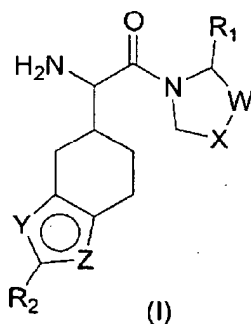
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Amendment to the Claims:

Amend Claims 8, 11, 14, 17, and 20.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of structural formula I:



wherein:

each n is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

W is selected from the group consisting of CH₂, CHF, and CF₂;

X is selected from the group consisting of S, S(O), S(O)₂, CH₂, CHF, and CF₂;

Y and Z are each independently selected from the group consisting of O, S, N, and NR⁷, with the proviso that at least one of Y and Z is N;

R¹ is hydrogen or cyano;

R² is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

halogen,

cyano,

hydroxy,

C₁₋₆ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein alkoxy is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

(CH₂)_n-COOH,

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$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-COOC}_{1-6}$ alkyl,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-CONR}^3\text{R}^4$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NR}^3\text{R}^4$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NR}^6\text{SO}_2\text{R}^5$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NR}^6\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NR}^6\text{COR}^6$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-NR}^6\text{CO}_2\text{R}^5$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-aryl}$, wherein aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, CO_2H ,

C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein

alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

wherein any methylene (CH_2) carbon atom in R^2 is independently unsubstituted or

substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and

C_{1-4} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-phenyl}$,

$(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-C}_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and

C_{1-6} alkyl,

wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein

phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents

independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein

alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens; or

R^3 and R^4 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring

selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, and morpholine wherein said

heterocyclic ring is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently

selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, and

C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five

halogens;

each R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-phenyl}$, $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-C}_{3-6}$

cycloalkyl, and C_{1-6} alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five

halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five

substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy,

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wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens, and wherein any methylene (CH_2) carbon atom in R^5 is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C_{1-4} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

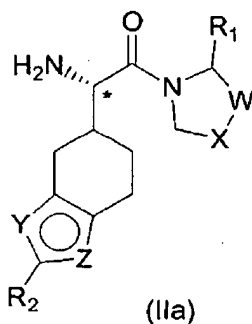
each R^6 is hydrogen or R^5 ; and

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,
 $(\text{CH}_2)_n$ -phenyl,
 $(\text{CH}_2)_n$ - C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and
 C_{1-6} alkyl,

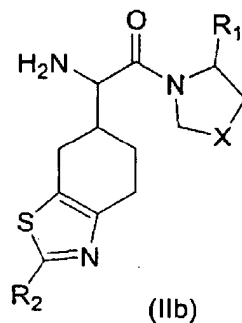
wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens.

2. (original) The compound of Claim 1 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIa:



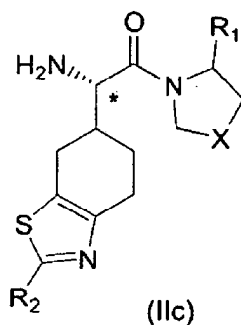
3. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIb:

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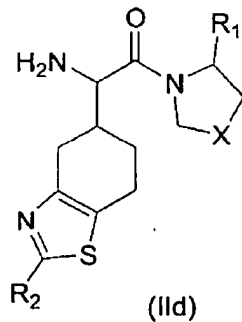
4. (original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

5. (original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIc:



and wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

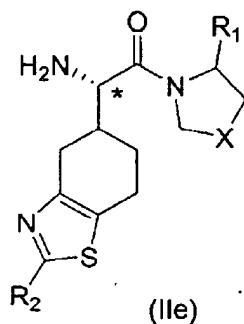
6. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula Id:



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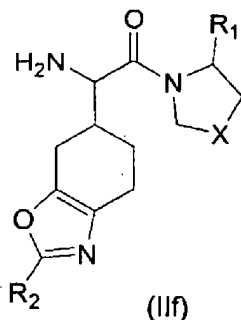
7. (original) The compound of Claim 6 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

8. (amended) The compound of Claim 6 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIe:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

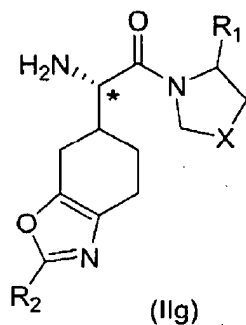
9. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula II f:



10. (original) The compound of Claim 9 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

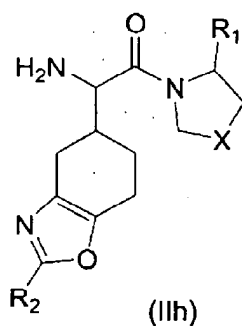
11. (amended) The compound of Claim 9 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIg:

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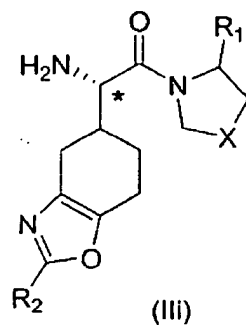
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

12. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIh:



13. (original) The compound of Claim 12 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

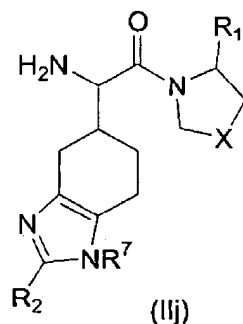
14. (amended) The compound of Claim 12 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula III:



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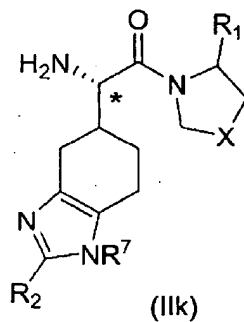
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

15. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIj:



16. (original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

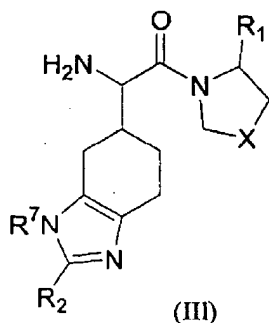
17. (amended) The compound of Claim 15 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIk:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

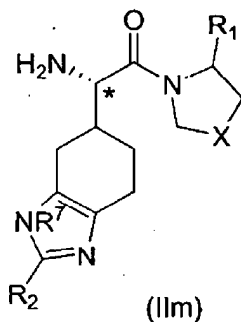
18. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula III:

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19. (original) The compound of Claim 18 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

20. (amended) The compound of Claim 18 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIIm:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

21. (original) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) A method for treating non-insulin dependent (Type 2) diabetes in a mammal in need thereof which comprises the administration to the mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

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24-31. (cancelled)